
CB58-2026: Against

From Cindy LaFollette <cindy72577@gmail.com>
Date Tue 9/22/2026 12:56 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc Royalty, Wendy <wroyalty@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Councilmembers,

Amending to state CB58. I supported CB25 with guardrails. Thank you.

Please find my written experience, concerns, and recommendation for this evening's hearing on CB58-2026. I approach my points and recommendation based on my own personal experiences working with NPOs and from conversations with multiple NPO directors, community leaders, volunteers, and the general public across Howard County.

My personl experience:

- Secretary, Ghanaian Mother's Hope
 - Served on a board of directors, overseeing donation and grants administration for building schools in Ghana.
- Board of Directors, Running Brook Children's Nursery
 - Served on the committee that closed the school due to lack of funding.
- President, Centennial Lane Elementary School PTA
 - Oversight of NPO and financial compliance with local, state, and national PTO, and the IRS.
- Board of Directors, Ellicott City Partnership.
- Service just began.
 - Largely involved in volunteerism and fund raising.

My thoughts and recommendation for CB25-2026**Things that are good about this bill:**

- Request for transparency and accountability.
- Centralized processing.
- Reforming a grants application, tracking, and follow up system. A really good example of tracking and reporting is the county Cleanscapes program:
 - Apply based on simple, outlined measures for stormwater management.
 - Be selected.
 - Site survey, quotes, submission, approval.
 - Payment and installation.

- Receive inspection every three years to remain in good standing.

Things that are bad about this bill:

- This is a county problem. Not a people problem.
 - Punishes people for current lack of oversight on the county side.
 - If we don't have a structure at the county level to support grant tracking, making it more difficult to apply and obtain grants is NOT the answer
- Requirements:
 - Two years of experience delivering services specifically related to the grant being sought can be likened to offering an entry-level job but requiring two years of relevant experience for said entry-level job.
 - Reporting is limited when a non-profit is lean, and dependent on volunteers and grants with no staff to support extended reporting.

What this bill puts at risk through restrictive auditing and reporting:

- **PRIVACY:**
 - Anonymity of victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Immigrants. Homeless. Drug addicts. Even volunteers.
 - Are we going to ask organizations like CASA to hand over the locations where they work and the names of people they help?
 - Are we going to list the names of shelters, safe houses, and every person in them?
- Community conflict de-escalation programs
 - We have people on the streets, working to deescalate gun violence, something that can be implemented quickly here on the ground as opposed to a national network.
- Effectiveness of mission-critical operations.
 - Eleven the federal government passed a paperwork reduction act in 2010. And we're here on the local level asking for more.

My recommendation for this bill:

- Vote it down. Start over. Grant administration should support progress, not punishment.



Outlook

Testimony in support of CB58 - Drew Roth

From Mr. Drew <mrdrew@gmail.com>

Date Tue 9/22/2026 10:26 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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CB58-26 Support Testimony.pdf;

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Here's my written testimony, which is the same as I gave verbally.

Drew Roth, Elkridge.

The sketchy grant to develop “The Source” teen center has made it apparent that reform of the grant administration process in Howard County is badly needed.

The overarching issue with The Source is the county provided the grantee with \$25 million without establishing what the county would get for that money. Here it is in black and white from the grant agreement. Section IX.

IX. PROJECT AND USE AGREEMENT

[...] prior to the issuance of the certificate of use and occupancy, Grantee, Property Owner and County will enter into an agreement permitting the County’s use of certain space located within the building to be constructed and/or on the Property. Such an agreement shall be in place before November 1, 2026.

It’s pretty sad that we need legislation to enforce the very fundamental principle that you don’t pay for something until you and the provider have agreed on what you are getting. But here we are.

The fact that the grant agreement does not define the deliverable has led to the appearance of corruption and pay-to-play dealings in the recent county executive election. The principals in the grantee organization made substantial campaign contributions to the county executive candidate endorsed by the current county executive, who put this incomplete grant agreement in place. Were these contributions motivated by a desire to get more favorable terms in the still-to-be-negotiated use agreement?

CB58 appropriately addresses this issue by banning political contributions from grantees. Note that this also protects grantees from being coerced to make contributions by elected officials.

One amendment I would suggest is to put a floor on the level of construction grant that requires more stringent reporting requirements. The county often hands out modest grants of \$100,000 or less to community nonprofits for building renovations. It’s already a substantial amount of work for volunteers to apply for grants, prepare a description of work, solicit proposals, and evaluate the proposals. One might consider a reporting requirement for such modest grants to be modeled on the reporting required for historic preservation tax credits, which is to provide documentation of the completed work and receipts for payments to contractors and vendors.

Drew Roth, Elkridge

Testimony - CB58-2026

From Laura Crovo <lcrovo@grassrootscrisis.org>
Date Thu 9/17/2026 4:43 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc Mariana Izraelson <mariana@grassrootscrisis.org>

 1 attachment (18 KB)

CB 58-2026 Testimony Mariana Izraelson.docx;

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Please find attached testimony in opposition to CB58-2026 on behalf of Dr. Mariana Izraelson, Executive Director of Grassroots Crisis Intervention.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything else. Thanks,

Laura

Laura Crovo
Director of Outreach and Community Engagement
Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc.
8990 Old Annapolis Road, Suite A
Columbia, Maryland 21045
Phone: [443-367-4778](tel:443-367-4778)
Cell: [443-618-0914](tel:443-618-0914)
Fax: [240-223-2221](tel:240-223-2221)
24/7 Crisis Line: [410-531-6677](tel:410-531-6677)
lcrovo@grassrootscrisis.org

Follow us on social media!



The connection is a great way to follow what is going on at Grassroots and how you can help those in need in Howard County.



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic mail transmission and any documents accompanying this electronic mail transmission are intended by Grassroots Crisis Intervention, Inc. for the use of the named addressee to which it is directed and may contain information that is privileged, or otherwise confidential. It is not intended for transmission to, or receipt by, anyone other than the named addressee or a person authorized to deliver it to the named addressee. It should not be copied or forwarded to any unauthorized persons. If you have received this electronic mail transmission in error, please delete it immediately.

Date: September 22, 2026

To: Howard County Council

From: Dr. Mariana Izraelson, LCADC, Executive Director, Grassroots Crisis Intervention

Position: Oppose Council Bill CB58-2026

Testimony in Opposition to Council Bill 58-2026– Grants – County Grant Agreements – Grants Application Platform and Data Base - Established

Dear Chairperson Jones and Members of the County Council,

My name is Dr. Mariana Izraelson, and I am Executive Director of Grassroots Crisis Intervention, Howard County's 24-hour crisis, mental health, substance use and homeless services provider. I am writing to strongly oppose Council Bill 58-2026, which proposes to amend the County's authority to award grants, establish new requirements to receive and report on grants, and create a new application process and database.

While I understand the Council's intention to ensure that funds are being allocated and used in the most judicious manner, this specific bill as written will have significant negative impacts on our community's nonprofits.

As a representative of Grassroots Crisis Intervention, I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

- **Increased Administrative Burden:** As proposed, this bill requires that nonprofits that receive grants from the county submit a tremendous amount of information both in order to receive funding and as part of the regular reporting process. This includes compiling and providing federal financial returns, listings of personnel, their job duties and compensation, and details on administrative costs, additional funding sources, and copious reporting. Nonprofits, especially those which receive funding from multiple sources, are already under a significant administrative reporting burden, and this continues to grow as we look for new grants to supplement increasing funding cuts. While we agree that it's important to demonstrate that we're good stewards of the county's money, it's important to consider how much information is being asked for and for what purpose. The time used to compile this information is often not compensated for by grants and is assumed as overhead by the nonprofits which operate on razor thin margins and with skeleton crew, underpaid staffs. This bill will increasingly add unnecessary overhead to organizations like Grassroots that are already overloaded by administrative requirements.

- **Duplication of Requests:** Grassroots currently receives several grants through various agencies in Howard County. For our Community Services Partnership grant, for example, we provide a great deal of reporting including client records, independent audits, monitoring, county inspections, IRS Form 990, budget narratives that include personnel and salaries, incredibly detailed performance metrics and more. This bill would essentially duplicate much of what we already provide and which is already audited closely by county agencies. These redundant tasks would not only create inefficiencies for nonprofits like Grassroots, but also the county, slowing down funding and hindering reimbursement that is necessary to pay staff and support county residents.

As a social services-focused nonprofit, it is critical that our staff spend as much time as possible on the successful delivery of our services to ensure our community members can access vital programs in an efficient, timely and effective manner. Introducing unnecessary administrative burdens will only slow down that process, tie up our staff and, at the end of the day, cost our nonprofits money. This is especially challenging at a time when we are losing funding and fighting for every single dollar of contributions to sustain our programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Testimony in Support of CB58

From Lisa Krausz <lisalkrausz@comcast.net>
Date Tue 9/22/2026 9:26 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc Jung, Debra <djung@howardcountymd.gov>

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Testimony in Support of CB58.docx;

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Please accept my testimony in support of CB58.

Thank you,
Lisa Krausz

Testimony in Support of CB58

Submitted by Lisa Krausz

9-22-2026

Greetings Council Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of CB58. My name is Lisa Krausz, and I am a Howard County resident. I am also a former foundation and grants manager for two different public interest, non-profit law firms as well as the development director for another smaller nonprofit that was involved in housing development. Combined, I had 10 years' worth of fund raising and foundation and grants management experience.

CB58 is an important and strong bill for Howard County. Raising money for non-profits and public endeavors should never be a simple enterprise, particularly when it comes to public monies, where transparency and accountability is paramount. CB58 will systematize and strengthen Howard County government's current grant-making programs for both non-profits and for county development efforts.

In my many years as a foundation and grants manager, the standards set-out by CB58 were common practice. The non-profits seeking monies, including development corporations undertaking construction projects, well understood that these standards improved the expenditure of the grants provided and created accountability for everyone.

CB58 provides Howard County with a first step in modernizing its grants management program and in implementing best practices for such a program, placing us more in line with our neighboring counties.

Specifically, as laid out by the Government Financial Officer's Association, the bill will benefit both Howard County government and the development projects & non-profits they assist in these ways:

1. A standardized application makes applying for grants a simpler and more streamlined process;
2. Identifying strategic funding goals ensures funding expenditures fall within the county's values and key objectives;
3. Ensuring that Howard County has the monies available to fund the projects it wishes to fund, is important budgetary practice (that should go without saying);
4. All grant applications should include an evaluation of the developer's or non-profits capacity for meeting the goals laid out in the proposal, which greatly improves outcomes for the grant;
5. Creating clear agreements between the funder and recipient clarifies expectations and avoids future confusion & conflict about how the grant is meant to be spent – it also increases accountability;
6. Evaluating the effectiveness of a grant expenditure through year-end or semi-annual reporting is essential to helping the grant recipient reflect on their progress, increase accountability, and help the funder better evaluate the organization's capacity to undertake the work (for future grant considerations).

I know one of the criticisms of this bill is that it will hurt smaller non-profits. I disagree, having worked for a small non-profit that grew its capacity over time, I know that by offering capacity building grants, the County can actually assist these non-profits enhance their organizational practices and abilities over time by offering capacity building grants and seed money. Standardization of a grants management program will not undermine these non-profit's ability to access grants and instead will likely improve their ability to access grants **AND** achieve their goals.

For these reasons, I urge you to support CB58 and strengthen Howard County's grant-making programs and management for the betterment of this County.

Testimony in Support of CB58
Submitted by Lisa Krausz
9-22-2026

Greetings Council Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of CB58. My name is Lisa Krausz, and I am a Howard County resident. I am also a former foundation and grants manager for two different public interest, non-profit law firms as well as the development director for another smaller nonprofit that was involved in housing development. Combined, I had 10 years' worth of fund raising and foundation and grants management experience.

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For these reasons, I urge you to support CB58 and strengthen Howard County's grant-making programs and management for the betterment of this County.

Testimony, CB58-2026

From Janssen Evelyn <janssen@janssenevelyn.com>

Date Wed 9/23/2026 2:53 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

Cc Harrod, Michelle <mrharrod@howardcountymd.gov>; Renesha Alphonso <renesha@janssenevelyn.com>

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Council Administrator Harrod,

Please find my written testimony in opposition of CB58-2026 attached.

As stated therein, I respectfully ask the Council to table CB58-2026 and convene a working group of non-profit leaders, fiscal professionals, and county administrators to ensure this is handled correctly.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email.

JEE



Janssen E. Evelyn

Democratic Nominee

Howard County Council, District 4

(He/His/Him)

301-512-1198

janssen@janssenevelyn.com

<https://janssenevelyn.com/>



Janssen Evelyn

Democrat for Howard County Council

Via Email: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Council

Attn: Council Chair Dr. Opel Jones

3430 Court House Drive

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

September 22, 2026

Re: CB58-2026 Testimony

Good evening, Council Chair and members of the County Council.

My name is Janssen Evelyn, resident of District 4 and incoming Councilmember Elect for District 4. I am here tonight to testify in opposition to Council Bill 58 as introduced.

I believe deeply in fiscal transparency and accountable stewardship of public dollars. Taxpayers deserve to know their investments are working. But effective public policy is never built in a vacuum; it requires genuine partnership with the community members who actually deliver the work on the ground.

Through my service on the boards of Columbia Community Care, the Howard County Conservancy, and the Howard County NAACP, I have seen firsthand what it takes to run emergency food sites, protect our environment, and support families on the margins. Non-profits are not profit-seeking contractors. They are an indispensable safety net filling gaps county government simply cannot address alone.

As drafted, CB58-2026 creates severe structural flaws:

First, the rigid two-year prior experience requirement locks out emerging, culturally specific, and grassroots initiatives. Organizations like Columbia Community Care were formed in direct, urgent response to acute crises. Penalizing groups that lack years of corporate infrastructure chokes off innovation when our residents need rapid help most.

Second, the bill imposes expensive, full CPA audits on non-profits with half a million dollars in contributions, even if they are only seeking a modest five- or ten-thousand-dollar county grant.



Janssen Evelyn

Democrat for Howard County Council

That standard is far stricter than Maryland state law and forces small charities to burn precious community dollars on administrative overhead instead of feeding families and serving youth.

Third, universal capital restrictions, including mandatory twenty-five percent cash matches and rigid disbursement schedules, completely ignore the cash-flow realities of environmental conservation and community facilities.

Finally, publishing sensitive participant data and service sites in an open database creates real safety hazards for vulnerable populations, including domestic violence survivors and immigrant families, while conflicting directly with federal privacy protections.

Stewardship without collaboration produces disruption. As I prepare to step into the District 4 seat and collaborate with my colleagues and the people who do this critical work, I want our county code to be practical, balanced, and legally sound.

I respectfully ask the Council to table CB58-2026 and convene a working group of non-profit leaders, fiscal professionals, and county administrators to get this right.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

/s/

Janssen E. Evelyn

Opposition to CB58

From Tina Horn <tinahorn_cae@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 9/23/2026 9:19 AM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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My name is Tina Horn and I am a 20 year resident of Wilde Lake and a 25 year resident of Howard County. I am here to testify against CB58-2026. I am testifying only on my own behalf as a resident of this community, not in any professional or volunteer capacity, although I bring more than 30 years of professional and volunteer nonprofit experience — 20 years in c4s and c6s and 11 in c3s.

The fiscal analysis of this bill that you received is woefully inadequate. CB58, if passed would require significant tax payer funds for the following:

- **Technology & Platform Infrastructure:** Where are the funds for developing this platform? For managing it? Maintaining it? How many FTE staff are required? Where is this effort in the list of projects already in the IT department's queue? How many existing and fully functional grants management platforms will be sunset at what cost to the taxpayer? How much staff time from grant-making departments will be pulled from grant-making and grant oversight duties to contribute to this new infrastructure? How many years will this development take?
- **Administrative Oversight Burden:** Because of repeated budget cuts and concerns, there are currently no staff overseeing the Community Service Partnership grants program within the Office of Community Partnerships. How many people will be required to read almost 40 grant reports, 40 sets of tax returns, 40 sets of "legally connected" tax returns? How many "legally connected" entities will be required to submit documentation? 10? 50? 100? That overhead adds up exponentially. Let's say 40 grantee tax returns of 25 pages apiece, plus 40 "program reports" of 10 pages apiece, plus 10 tax returns per grantee of "legally connected" entities at 25 pages apiece were all submitted. If you read one page in two minutes, which is not appropriate for any kind of actual analysis, that would take one FTE 9 solid weeks of work time all by themselves. That's a fifth of the year just reading. If you want actual analysis on top of that, which is necessary to track and understand any kind of trends or identify issues that may trigger additional review, you'll need to significantly increase staffing. There's a real cost to that. CB58 requirements are only proposed to be an annual process, at grant signing. What about the periodic reports throughout the year? Those numbers are only based on the CSP program grantees, and while it's one of the largest, it is not the only one.

- **Audit Enforcement Costs:** Will County Audit staff also be required to read all the tax returns or will they be relying on grant-making staff to raise issues they identify in their 2 minutes a page lightning scan?

Finally, with all due respect to the testimony earlier this evening from HCCA, public comment on individual grants is a horrifying idea. Grants to immigrant-supporting organizations will be an invitation to xenophobia, grants to LGBT-supporting organizations a red carpet to homophobes, grants supporting African American organization will provide opportunities for racists to spew their wretched views. Platforming hatred whether on purpose or not is always a terrible idea.

Please vote this bill down.

Tina Horn

Non profit requirements

From Alison Hickman <alisonhickman@gmail.com>

Date Thu 9/24/2026 3:21 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>

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Good afternoon all,

I wanted to offer a language suggestion for your bill - rather than a specific year requirement you might require that the nonprofit have documented clear experience delivering services **similar in size, scale and complexity**. This mirrors language requirements the state DHCD used to use in their Guide, attached to their Qualified Allocation Plan allocating affordable housing tax credits and funding. This is on their website - <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/housing/multifamily-document-library>. Scroll down to QAP and guide, download the "Guide" then go to section 4.1.1 experience.

In my past experience working with the state when I focused on that professionally (which admittedly is now several years in the past) - the state would also look at who the individual participants/board members were and whether they had experience, since real estate often uses newly formed entities. It is totally reasonable to require experience and if it is a new entity, the nonprofit should have clearly experienced board members.

I won't opine on whether an audit is the best benchmark or not, but I do think for an organization receiving a significant sum of money, **financial statements reviewed by a third-party CPA in some fashion**, even if not an audit would not represent a hardship. **For a smaller grant, perhaps the requirement simply doesn't apply**. MD DHCD also has financial statement requirements in this same guide, I believe they used to accept a compilation from a CPA. As a governing body you may want to consult with a CPA and find out what level of financial statement with a third party lens makes sense. Allocating funding to organizations, what you are seeking to do has a lot of similarity to what the state does for LIHTC and other rental funding, it feels like a good opportunity to leverage some existing good practices there. From the relevant section 3.1 of the MD Guide they state "*All corporations, limited liability companies, or limited partnerships that make up the Developer, Project Owner, or that will provide guarantees to the transaction must submit audited, reviewed, or compiled financial statements, as well as interim statements acceptable to DHCD. Project guarantors must provide audited or reviewed financial statements for the most recent year.... If the financial statements, including associated management letters, raise concerns about material misstatements, lack of internal controls, or doubts about an entity's ability to remain a going concern, the application may, in the sole discretion of DHCD, be rejected on a threshold basis.*"

Thank you for your consideration. I think having some requirements does make sense. It really does feel like a missed opportunity that so much money was allocated without a clear competitive process and some rigorous requirements. One of the benefits of subjecting a grantee to some level of screening is ensuring they are able to execute and deliver value - otherwise we are tying up resources that could otherwise be utilized (such as my more frequent letter topic requesting that we require the BOE to increase the adult to student ratio in our classrooms :-))

Best,
Alison Hickman
301-580-5442

CB-58 2026

From Ted Cochran <ted@fb4kmaryland.org>
Date Thu 9/24/2026 12:54 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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While I in general agree that certain grants to nonprofits from Howard County, especially for real property, should be more transparently reported, I have a serious issue with one clause in the current proposal that needs to be amended.

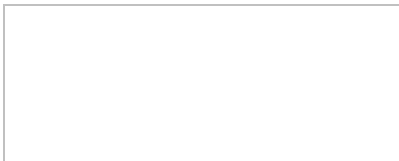
It concerns the audit limits for grant-accepting nonprofits, and in particular does not distinguish between cash and noncash revenue of those nonprofits. It's a huge deal for us, because our cash budget is usually under \$30,000 when our gross revenue according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles now routinely exceeds \$500K.

We got this issue resolved by the Maryland Legislature in 2023; we'd be unable to afford to apply for grants from Howard County without an amendment of CB-58.

Details are attached in our written testimony.

Thanks for your consideration,

--tc
Ted Cochran
President, Free Bikes 4 Kidz Maryland





5178 Downwest Ride
Columbia, MD 21044

September 14, 2026

Dear Howard County Council Members:

I am writing to request that **CB58-2026 be amended** before it is considered for passage.

In particular, Section 22.704 (L) requires that

"NONPROFIT AGENCIES WITH GROSS INCOMES FROM CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$500,000 OR MORE SHALL SUBMIT A PROGRAM REPORT AND AN INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT"

Nonprofits such as Free Bikes 4 Kidz that follow Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) are required to count noncash contributions as revenue. For us, this includes

- contributions of property (such as used bicycles),
- discounts received from vendors,
- the use of facilities such as warehouse space,
- donations of expert labor, and,
- other donations that are not cash, checks and other transfers to our cash account.

These donations are all assessed at Fair Market Value (FMV).

Nonprofits such as ours that collect, refurbish, and give away physical goods and that follow GAAP therefore have massive noncash revenue relative to our cash revenue. In FY2026, for example, we received, among other noncash donations,

- 3500 bicycles with a FMV of \$400,000 (94% of which were repaired and given away)
- \$40,000 worth of new helmets

- \$216,000 FMV donation of warehouse space from Prologis

Our total revenue was over \$700,000, *of which only \$19,000 was cash.*

The cost of an audit could be 50% of our cash revenue, which is unaffordable.

Maryland nonprofit regulations used to have the same issue, but we worked with the Maryland Legislature to pass HB0072 in 2023, which provides that nonprofits may be exempted from audit requirements if

- cash receipts are 20% or less of total revenue,
- the nonprofit receives donations of property intended for redistribution without charge,
- Follows GAAP, and
- Is current with federal and state registration and reporting requirements,
- among several other requirements related to mission, governance, and fundraising.

Maryland had already followed federal guidance that donations of space (e.g., a warehouse for bike refurbishing) are exempted from inclusion in revenue for the purpose of financial reporting. **CB-58 does not.**

There are not a lot of nonprofit organizations that have a 4:1 ratio of noncash to cash contributions, but for those of us that do, the prospect of spending \$10-15K on an audit is impossible to meet unless the county includes the cost in the grant. The option to find an accountant to audit a nonprofit pro bono raises conflict of interest issues.

In conclusion, please do not prevent us from continuing to request small grants from Howard County by imposing onerous independent financial audit requirements on those grants. State and Federal filings and GAAP adherence should be sufficient for nonprofits such as ours.

At the very least, please amend CB-58 to require audits when nonprofits have *cash* revenue exceeding \$500K, and follow federal practice that contributions of space are not normally reported as noncash revenue.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Ted Cochran

Ted Cochran

Testimony for CB 58-2026

From Kerry Darragh <KDarragh@thehorizonfoundation.org>

Date Mon 10/5/2026 11:56 AM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (438 KB)

CB 58-2026 Testimony_Horizon Foundation.pdf;

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Good morning,

Please see attached for written testimony in opposition of CB 58-2026, on behalf of the Horizon Foundation.

Thank you!

Kerry Darragh

Senior Communications Officer

Office: 443-766-1228 | Mobile: 484-767-3718

kdarragh@thehorizonfoundation.org

www.thehorizonfoundation.org

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 5, 2026

BILL: CB 58-2026

POSITION: Oppose

The Horizon Foundation is the largest independent health philanthropy in Maryland. We are committed to a Howard County free from systemic inequities, where all people can live abundant and healthy lives. The Foundation is writing in opposition to **CB 58-2026**, which would add requirements for nonprofit organizations in applying for and reporting on county grants.

There is no doubt that transparency and accountability are crucial when it comes to dispersing our community's tax dollars. However, CB-58 does not take the right approach to addressing these concerns and does not fully recognize the level of controls the county's grant programs already have in place. We are concerned that the bill will further burden our nonprofit community whose capacity has been severely stretched due to funding cuts from the federal government in recent years with additional administrative requirements. We are also concerned that the bill would prevent new, innovative nonprofit programs from receiving funding and that it would use a lower threshold to perform an audit on nonprofits, which are increasingly significant costs for many organizations.

It is always worthwhile to evaluate how programs and processes are working, and we would support a deeper discussion – with county agencies dispersing grants and nonprofits receiving them at the table – about the county's grant programs and how they could be improved. This bill, however, takes a one-size-fits-all approach and does not understand the level of public accountability and transparency measures that nonprofits already take on a regular basis.

Our nonprofit community is a big reason why Howard County is such a wonderful place to live. These organizations do important and impactful work in improving the lives of our residents – all while under an increasing level of stress and fewer resources to do their work. We want to ensure that Howard County remains a place where nonprofits can thrive and do good for our community. In solidarity with our funded partners and our local nonprofit community, the Foundation **OPPOSES CB 58-2026**. Thank you for your consideration.

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